



# Education Monthly

**November 2011**

## From the Chairman's desk

Brethren:

This is the second issue of the Education Monthly bulletin. I received many responses to last month's first edition leading me to hope that it will be effective in bringing education nearer to Lodges and their members.

The Committee on Masonic Education produces a quarterly edition of "Reflections" Sadly it only reaches some 600 people despite being of high quality. The various College Courses that are produced by our College of Freemasonry reach those who are interested in a longer immersion in Masonic Education or are preparing for higher office. The vast majority of Masons

however will get their daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge through private reading and research and through attending lodge. It is, as M.W.Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels reminds us, "**on the floor of the Lodge**" that most education must be imparted.

This committee will focus on this theme in the coming year. But nothing the committee can or will do will replace the effort which each W. Master and his officers must make to ensure satisfying and instructional programmes for the brethren.

The CME will assist in any way we can. Just ask for it!

**R.W.Bro. John Forster**

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## No Time Wasted in Lodge

Some of the best initiatives come from the grass roots - from Districts, Lodges or individual Masons. Here is something developed in Wellington District that is awesome in its elegance. The equipment consists of three Masonic Apron Graphics one of which is shown below. I suggest you create copies of this, adapt it for other degrees (Fellow Craft or Master Masons: to be used during time in the ante-room while temporarily absent from Lodge e.g. at installations) and hang one on a hook in the anteroom of your lodge. Then arrange for the brethren to use them: Our newest Masons are the most curious, most interested, most easily instructed members we have. At the same time that they are seeking their own understanding of our curious institution, we are at greatest risk of losing their interest. If you can, recall the feeling you most likely had during your degree progress, when you were told perhaps for several months running, that you were to sit outside the lodge while another member received his next degree.

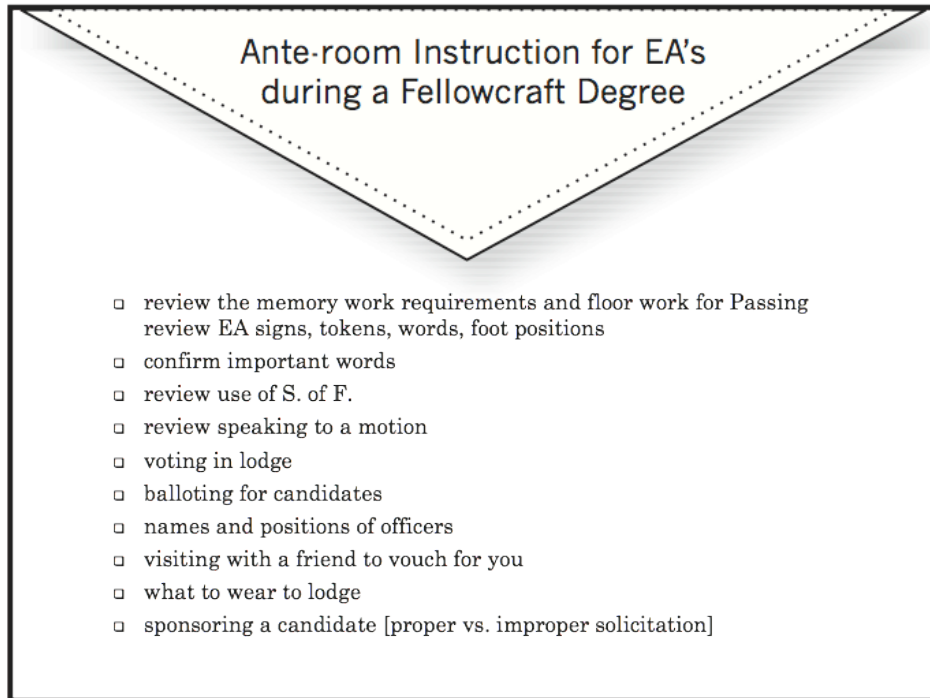
We must better employ the time of our newest Masons. There should be no wasted evenings at lodge. New members are understandably impatient to progress. They need to learn that we care about their progress and that we are committed to their advancement.

This is a simple plan, and is well within the capabilities of every lodge to employ. On every degree-planning sheet, the Master should designate the appropriate chairman, or a well-skilled member to retire with those members who are being excused for a time, and to ensure that good use is made of that "teachable moment". (The Tyler is not necessarily the ideal person) It may be necessary in a very busy lodge to run anteroom sessions for several meetings in succession with the same new Mason, or group of Masons.

**Committee on Masonic Education**

This is an unprecedented opportunity to enhance knowledge. It is player development: team building, expert coaching, practically on a one-to-one basis. The topics suggested for presentation are starting points. I encourage you to be thorough and creative. Team-teaching is appropriate. Have the material for the evening prepared. Let your newest Masons know that there will be something for them at lodge this month. (A phone call or e-mail contact would encourage their attendance and participation.)

Take whatever time this initiative requires in your own lodge situation & use whatever techniques you find appropriate. Let your DDGM know about your successes and share your best presentations.



By R. W. Bro. Donald Hamilton for the Committee on Masonic Education April 2010

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of your brethren as you can**